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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

NASHUA MAN SENTENCED ON BANK ROBBERY AND GUN CHARGES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono today **announced** that Ronald Wilson, 35, of Nashua, New Hampshire, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Concord to 9 years and 7 months in prison on one count of bank robbery and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Wilson was also sentenced to 3 years of supervised release after he is released from prison. A person on supervised release has his conduct supervised by the United States Probation Office. Failure to abide by the conditions of supervised release can result in additional incarceration.

The charges stem from the January 28, 2003 robbery of the Bank of New Hampshire, 160 Broad Street, Nashua, New Hampshire. Wilson entered the Bank of New Hampshire at approximately 10:30 a.m. and approached a teller with a note that read, "Put the money in the bag. I have a gun." The teller put approximately \$4,895 in a grocery shopping bag provided by the defendant. Wilson was arrested on February 4, 2003. A Jennings 9 MM handgun with an obliterated serial number was recovered a short time thereafter from the engine compartment of a vehicle registered to Wilson. Wilson pleaded guilty to the crimes on April 8, 2003.

Wilson was sentenced as a career offender under the federal sentencing guidelines. A person qualifies as a career offender if he has two or more prior felony convictions for either a controlled substance offense or a violent crime.

United States Attorney Tom Colantuono stated: "Project Safe Neighborhoods is a program dedicated to the prosecution of violent criminals, particularly those individuals who are career offenders, a class of criminals that Congress has explicitly stated are individuals who deserve greater punishment because they have engaged in continued criminal activity involving violent crimes or drugs. The United States Attorney's Office is committed to using the tools provided by Congress to remove repeat offenders from society." U.S. Attorney Colantuono expressed his appreciation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to the Nashua Police Department and the Windham Police Department for the quick capture of the defendant. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Don Feith.